

The Chronicle

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Office Whyte Ave., Strathcona.

Phone 61.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The Bulletin last evening publishes a long interview with the Minister of Public Works in which the Hon. Mr. Cushing avers that the coroner's jury in the mine disaster were not justified in bringing in the verdict they did. A report of a similar interview is published in the Morning Altonian. In our opinion we are indebted to the Deputy Minister, Mr. Stocks. If we could get a third interview with the opinion adduced Mr. Cushing would have a man who had the presumption and impudence to undertake the summing up of the case for the jury and was promptly called down for it, we might perhaps have the real author of the Solomonism exposed.

Section 12, subsection 2, clause (a) as quoted in the interview reads: "That the quantity of mineral provided is not sufficient to repay the outlay which would be incurred in sinking or making a second shaft or outlet, or by establishing communication with a second shaft or outlet in any part where such communication existed and has been made impossible." This stripped of its legal verbiage means that section 10, clause B demanding that a distance of one yard be left between a shaft and an air shaft does not apply to any mine where the Minister has given an order for exemption for the reason stated in the clause just quoted.

In view of the fact that the manager of the company has stated that they were preparing to increase the capacity from 100 to 200 tons per day, it would seem to argue that the quantity of mineral provided is sufficient to pay for the "outlay." The further fact that poor Hardy had been working another outlet which he had stopped on Lamont's return, for what reason remains unexplained, showed that the Company itself saw the need of it. If Mr. Cushing, either of himself or through his agent, had informed the mine that did not need to have another shaft, for the reason assigned in the interview, they should not have been consumed instead of only that interdicted.

When the Minister stated that had the air shaft been fifteen feet, further, it would have made no difference, saying the men lived at sea levels when in the opinion of nearly every man who saw the fire, is not true.

The interdict in the Alberta interview goes beyond the jury's and blames the disaster on the dead men accusing them of carelessness in the use of candles. The cause of the fire, by candle is only conjecture, not established. The Minister himself in the Bulletin interview says legislation is needed for protection from fire above the pit. We concur in this and insist that his attempt to shift the blame placed on him by a jury of exceptionally intelligent men onto the unfortunate victims of the catastrophe. It is true that the men did not take out the fact remains that had Hardy been permitted to complete the alternative opening, which he was so anxious about, and which the Minister said he proposed to implement, it may not have been necessary, the probability are that he and his companions might be alive today.

It may be true that the English mining regulations are the prototype of all mining regulations, but we submit that even so they are susceptible to amendment and improvement to meet the conditions of this province.

The disposition of the Inspector to "show off" before the jury and to break into print seems to us to indicate the adroitness of a change in his position, at an early date.

In another column we publish a letter from Alderman W. E. Rankin, in which he takes exception to our strictures on his remarks at Tues-

day night's council meeting in regard to the verdict of the coroner's jury on the death of the mine victim.

The Alderman fails to give it that if all the evidence the jury had was published in the Chronicle they would have been influenced in their verdict by street gossip for certainly was nothing in the Chronicle evidence to establish the fact that the coroner's council had been dilatory in getting those wages and necessary equipment "made to them some time ago."

The Alderman makes no statement of his own, but says in a paragraph all by itself—Alderman Rankin said he thought the jury had got their story from the streets."

The Alderman may intend to serve some purpose in this way by attempting to take advantage from criticism of his remarks about the jury in the Chronicle's report of the inquest, just as some Alderman tried to do in the Fire Commission Report about the statements of their members to comply with the request of the department, but the attempt will fail.

The Chronicle has no evidence of giving a verbatim report of the inquest. There was a verbatim report taken, however of the sworn statements and on that verbatim report the jury rendered its verdict.

Alderman Rankin's tactic is to accuse the Alderman of his criticism of his criticism of the jury on a newspaper report, while charging the members who were dead to the Alderman's statements and then themselves under oath to come to a decision on the evidence is, to say the least of it, rather presumptuous.

The fact that his administration and in particular the Alderman's reports almost identical in two newspapers taken by different men, both trained to the work, would indicate that the Alderman has gone into deep with the Alderman to cover his tracks.

The Alderman quotes the report of Chief Great's evidence as follows: "In the City Council, the Alderman asks 'whether in the evidence to public you would find anything to justify a verdict of censure being passed on the City Council.' In the first place we would say that no vote of ours would be passed on the council."

The jury simply regretted that they had been dilatory.

In the second place we will answer the Alderman's question by asking it in a slightly different form: "Where in the evidence as published, you would find anything to justify an Alderman of the City of Strathcona in asserting that a jury of respectable citizens, sworn to do their duty, had found their verdict on street gossip."

The Alderman asks us to confine ourselves to the evidence as published. We have done so and we repeat that the remark was unworthy of a public man. We are not expressing any opinion on the verdict itself. The sincere the honor, the integrity, we regard for the oath of six of our best citizens, we are not by the remark made in the legislative hall of this city by one of its elected representatives and we have resented his action. We are not vain enough to place our judgment against theirs, especially in a matter in which they were solemnly and seriously interested and we were not.

They deliberated long and carefully, made extensive enquiry, and we believe indulged in impartial reflection, and expressed their judgment, knowing their responsibility, and it is not for us to either justify or condemn their verdict.

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C.P.R.'s Latest Line is Partially Completed.

(Toronto Globe.)

It is doubtful whether Torontonians or the majority of the people of this province realize the amount of railway development that is going on in this country, particularly in the opening of new lines.

For years the C.P.R. has been planning a connection line of its own between Toronto and its main line. Within a year this plan will be achieved and the company will have a line from Toronto to Sudbury which will shorten the time between Toronto and Vancouver by five or six hours at least. The line is now in course of construction to over a year, and has now been completed as far as Bala Falls, enabling the C.P.R. to reach out for the Muskoka timber business.

The extension of the line from Bolton Junction to Bala and Muskoka, a distance of 92 miles, was so far completed last year on Thursday, a special train consisting of officials, engineers and guests of the company was taken over the line and given an opportunity to observe the beauties of the new construction.

Mr. George H. Head, whose home address might be said to be "Canada," was the chairman of the party, and others present were Messrs. Wm. St. John, G. C. Foxworth, Wm. Walsh, A. L. Smith, John Rose, Donald Wilkinson, A. B. Harshaw, H. F. MacLean, J. N. Porter, E. J. McHugh, Allen Jones and E. G. Sullivan.

The party was headed by Mr. Head, president of construction for the C.P.R., and is personally supervising the new line, was formerly assistant to the famous engineer, A. E. Stevens, in the construction of the Panama Canal.

The line, as constructed, taps a good section of country which has hitherto been undeveloped with the exception of rail road services. After leaving Bolton, the line takes in the towns of Tottenham, Alliston and Beeton all of which are centers of rich agricultural districts. It runs with the C.P.R. line through Bala and water, where it crosses the Midland division of the Grand Trunk. Beyond Coldwater, the line passes into a wilder ness hitherto known only to the Indians and the lumber ranges and makes its way through Bala, through cut and burnt timber limits, remarked for their abundance and new growths.

The fact is that it is a region of granite which tends to tend to agricultural prosperity, making the country picturesque to the tourist. At one point the line has been built through huge boulders. The visitors observe from the windows inquisitive groundhogs and other beasts native to the woods. The project seems of the C.P.R. officials have in view is to build a spur line from some point beyond Coldwater to Midland and skirt the shore to Owen Sound. When the line is completed in two years beyond Bala it will run through Barnesdale, Parry Sound, Biting Inlet, until it taps the main line at Hanford, a short distance from the east of Bolton. The length of the line from Bolton to Bala will be 226 miles.

The party was greatly impressed by the very fine roadbed which has been laid, and the company officials are positive that it can be opened for regular traffic on June 22. The aim is to delay the opening until every track is perfectly smooth. A mile of track which impressed everyone was the exceedingly neat and handsome stations which have been built at all points on the line.

The opening of the new line will result in the inauguration of a very much improved C.P.R. service between Toronto and the Muskoka Lakes. The entire system of trains will be put on, and a decided improvement in time will be made throughout the rest of the service.

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The two new trains are marked in the new newly issued summer timetable as Nos. 111 and 112. The latter, No. 112, will run daily except Monday after Sunday June 30. It comes in from Pittsburg and will start at 1:30 p.m., and leaves for Bala. No. 111 will run daily except

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We have a number of last season's coats that will answer just the same for going out on rainy days and they cost less than half as much as this season's goods. Here they are

1 Ladies' coat, length 60 in	was \$6.00	now \$4.25
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1 Misses' , , ,	51	, \$2.50 now \$1.70
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99-86.

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Tenders will be received up to five p.m. Monday, June 17th, for the erection of the Strathcona City Hospital.

Plans and specifications may be seen at the offices of the undersigned.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

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NOTICE.

On and after June 15th, 1907, the initiation fee for membership into local union No. 1109 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America in Strathcona will be advanced to \$10.

CARPENTERS' UNION NO 1109
United Brotherhood of Carpenters
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union No. 1109, Strathcona, meets
Wednesday of each week at 8 p.m. in
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JAS. H. MINER,
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JOINED BY BLOOD TIES.

That blood would again be found to be thicker than water if Britain were ever attacked by a foreign nation was the sentiment expressed by a visitor from the United States, Dr. S. W. Mitchell, who was the principal speaker at the dinner given by the Board of Governors, Senate and Faculty of the University of Toronto to the visiting chief Dr. Drummmond, the "Poet of the Habitat."

About three hundred persons were present at the one-thousand-the piano being laid aside.

The first toast, "The King," being proposed by the chairman, President Hutton, and honorably honored that of "Our Country." "We are grateful to Dr. Tandy and responded to Professor I. H. Cameron.

"Sister Institutions" was proposed by Dr. Bingham, who concluded it with the name of Dr. Wm. Mitchell, the principal guest of the evening, mentioning his distinguished position in neurology and comparative physiology, his work with the Royal Society of Medicine, the British Association and other scientific bodies, and his large contribution to the literary detection and proof of thousands of "his fellow-countrymen."

DR. S. W. MITCHELL'S ADDRESS

Dr. Mitchell in the opening sentences of his address said that no man in the world is more honoured or possibly, as some said a few years ago, that there should be but one nation on this continent from Mexico to the Arctic pole. The only reason for this, he said, was that by which the Americans are amassing Frenchmen and teaching them English; "as I think you might have done years ago," said the speaker, "and the Spanish are amassing over Americans into Western Canada." The closest beyond, he said, can be found in the brotherhood of medicine. Having been born in Canada, he added, he felt free to speak his mind miles of common boundary—an example and forte along the thousands of miles of common boundary—an example to the world in the matter of treatment of immigrants. If Britain were to be attacked by any other nation she would again find that blood is thicker than water. And iron-bound as our country between the United States and this country were merely family squabbles, to be settled without any consideration of calm and reasonable adjustment.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DRUMMOND.

Dr. Mitchell referred to the salmon stocked waters of Kasapedia, where he comes every year to recruit his vigor, and the chief of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Dr. Drummmond he said had made speech in another tongue than that of prose, and thus expresses his tribute to the warm-hearted "Poet of the Habitat."

"I am, when he informed me, a good eight, nine, ten fullnesses her loss in whose death Canada does not, said, yet appreciate."

Peace to this post-noul. Full well he knew.

To sing for those who knew not how to praise
The woods and life, the farmer's patient toil,

The pure drama of laborious days.

He made his own the thoughts of simple men,

And with the touch that makes the world akin,
A welcome guest of lonely cabin doors.

Fond, too, no heart he could not enter in.

The toil-worn doctor, women, children, man, woman,

The humble heroes of the lumber drives,

Love, laugh or weep along his peopled verst,
Blithe with the pathos of their mego lives.

While thus the poet love interpreted,
He left us pictures no man may forget.

Courteous, batiste, comile, mon frere and host,
The good brave cure, he of Calumette.

Some mystery of genius haunts his page,
Some wonder secret of the poet's song.

Die with this master of the peasant's thoughts—
Peace to the northland poet, and farewell!

MOST ACCURSED BLESSING.

Dr. Mitchell concluded humorously by telling how he shut off the impudent "Hello, hello" of a telephone who had called and said to the telephone "if he was going to Toronto," and declaring that when in the free sphere of angelic existence we should look back with regret upon the earth we had occupied all the time we sang we enjoy, and he remarked that "when Alexander Graham Bell goes to another world he will bring with him a speech."

The speech back "goodbye to a pleasant hour, a day of honor, and a delightful hospitality."

Correspondence.

* * * The Chronicle does not hold itself responsible for the contents of this column. This column is open for the expression of the opinions of our readers. The hand of the editor is not on communication, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good will.

To Editor Evening Chronicle:

It would not surprise your current comment in yesterday's Evening Chronicle, and I take the liberty of asking you the favor of making a correction and of asking you which paper I may take the liberty of addressing in your valuable paper to reply, all of which I am sure will be cheerfully granted by you.

This correction I would ask for is you make me to have said that the verdict of the jury was founded upon street gossip. What I did say was that if all the facts of the case had been published in the Chronicle.

Chief Great said that it was correct they must have been influenced in that verdict by street gossip, for he said in his report in the *Chronicle* Great's evidence as published to show that the council had been diligent in getting a horse wagon and necessary equipment made to them since that time.

The following, I believe, is a correct copy of Chief Great's evidence as published in the Evening Chronicle and several other papers.

On the morning of the 2nd of June, 1906, I, the brigadier, deposited that the alarm came in about 11.30 when he was in bed. He got down to the mine about twelve o'clock, but other members of the brigade had been up about fifteen minutes before him. They took about 1,500 feet of hose, but had to send back for 450 feet more the delay in getting water was owing to the want of a hose wagon, and having to send a team to bring down the hose. They had requisitioned for a hose wagon and it had been promised that day. The Edmonton brigadier had telephoned offering their services if necessary, but he had declined them.

Now I should like to ask you where in the evidence, as published, you would find anything to justify a verdict of cause being passed upon the City Council. By replying to the above you will confer a favor upon your humble servant, and upon all the other members of the City Council. Hoping I may be favored with a reply and that you will confide yourself to the evidence published in your paper of Tuesday, the 13th.

I remain, Yours truly, W. E. Rankin.

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Silk Blouses below cost. Hosiery, Gloves, Whitewear, Handkerchiefs at Cost.

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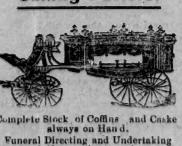
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